Shielding from Space Radiations

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ABSTRACT

This Progress Report covering the period of December 1,1991 to June 1,1992 presents the development of an analytical solution to the heavy ion transport equation in terms of Green's function formalism. The mathematical development results are recasted into a highly efficient computer code for space applications. The efficency of this algorithm is accomplished by a nonperturbative technique of extending the Green's function over the solution domain. The code may also be applied to accelerator boundary conditions to allow code validation in laboratory experiments.

INTRODUCTION

Future NASA missions will be limited by exposure to space radiations unless adequate shielding is provided to protect men and equipments from such radiations. Adequate methods required to estimate the damage caused by such radiations behind various shields can be evaluated prior to commitment to such missions.

From the inception of the Langley Research Center heavy ion (HZE) shielding program (refs. 1-3), there has been a continued, close relationship between code development and laboratory experiment (ref. 3). Indeed, the current research goal is to provide computationally efficient high charge and energy ion (HZE) transport codes which can be validated with laboratory experiments and subsquently applied to space engineering design. In practice, two streams of code development have prevailed due to the strong energy dependence of necessary atomic/molecular cross sections and the near singular nature of the laboratory beam boundary conditions (refs. 4-6). The atomic/molecular cross section dependence is adequately dealt with by using the methods of Wilson and Lamkin (ref. 7), allowing efficient numerical procedures to be developed for space radiations (refs. 6,8-10). Although these codes could conceivably be applied to the laboratory validation, methods to control truncation and discretization errors would bear little resemblance to the space radiation codes attempting to be validated. Clearly, a radical reorientation is required to achieve the validation goals of the current NASA space radiation shielding program, and such an approach is the main thrust of this research and is briefly described below.

A useful technique in space radiation shielding is the use of the impulse response Green's function (refs. 11,12), which satisfies the Boltzman equation of the form

$$\left[\vec{\Omega}\cdot\vec{\nabla} - \frac{\partial}{\partial E}\tilde{S}_j(E) + \sigma_j\right] G_{jm}(E, E_o, \vec{\Omega}, \vec{x})$$
$$= \sum_k \int \sigma_{jk}(E, E', \vec{\Omega}, \vec{\Omega}')\, G_{km}(E', E_o, \vec{\Omega}', \vec{x}) d\vec{\Omega}' dE' \quad (1)$$

where G_{jm} reduces to a monoenergetic unidirectional function at the boundary, $\tilde{S}_j(E)$ is the stopping power, σ_j is the total cross section, and σ_{jk} is the inclusive differential cross section. An arbitrary solution to the Boltzman equation within a closed convex region can be written as

$$\phi_j(E, \vec{\Omega}, \vec{x}) = \sum_m \int G_{jm}(E, E', \vec{\Omega} - \vec{\Omega}', \vec{x} - \vec{\Gamma})$$
$$\times\ f_m(E', \vec{\Omega}', \vec{\Gamma}) d\vec{\Omega}' dE' d\vec{\Gamma} \quad (2)$$

where $f_m(E', \vec{\Omega}', \vec{\Gamma})$ is the incident flux at the boundary (ref. 11). Since transport problem is formulated in terms of a single Green's function algorithm, the validation of the Green's function in the laboratory meets the objective of having a space validated code. Since there is hope of a Green's function based on an analytical solution of the Boltzmann equation (ref. 13), the resulting evaluation of the shield properties should be computationally efficient.

The first step in this process is to develop an equivalent Green's function algorithm in one dimension to match the current capability in space radiation transport calculation (refs. 6,14). The algorithm is based on the closed form solution to the one dimensional equation

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial E}\tilde{S}_j(E) + \sigma_j\right) G_{jm}(E, E_o, x)$$

$$= \sum_k \int \sigma_{jk}(E, E') G_{km}(E', E_o, x) dE' \qquad (3)$$

for a monoenergetic beam at the boundary. The probality of validation for ^{20}Ne beams of this algorithm (with multiple scattering corrections) has already shown good correlation (refs. 5,15), but improvements in the nuclear data base are required for achieving higher correlations with experiment. If considerations are restricted to multiple charged ions then the right hand side of equation (3) can be further reduced to

$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial E}\tilde{S}_j(E) + \sigma_j\right] G_{jm}(E, E_o, x)$$

$$= \sum_k \sigma_{jk} G_{km}(E, E_o, x) \qquad (4)$$

for which a solution is presented below.

APPROXIMATE GREENS'S FUNCTION

Equation (4) can be simplified by transforming the energy into the the residual range as

$$r_j = \int_0^E dE'/\tilde{S}_j(E') \qquad (5)$$

and defining new field variables as

$$\psi_j(x, r_j) = \tilde{S}_j(E)\phi_j(x, E) \qquad (6)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) = \tilde{S}_j(E)\mathrm{G}_{jm}(x, E, E') \qquad (7)$$

so that equation (4) becomes

$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r_j} + \sigma_j\right] \mathcal{G}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m)$$

$$= \sum_k \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_k} \sigma_{jk} \mathcal{G}_{km}(x, r_j, r'_m) \qquad (8)$$

with boundary condition

$$\mathcal{G}_{jm}(0, r_j, r'_m) = \delta_{jm}\, \delta(r_j - r'_m) \qquad (9)$$

and

$$\psi_j(x, r_j) = \sum_m \int_0^\infty \mathcal{G}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) f_m(r'_m) dr'_m \qquad (10)$$

The solution to equation (8) may be written as

$$\mathcal{G}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) = \sum_i \mathcal{G}^{(i)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) \qquad (11)$$

where zeroth order term of equation (11) is

$$\mathcal{G}^{(o)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) = g(j)\, \delta_{jm}\, \delta(x + r_j - r'_m) \qquad (12)$$

and the first order term of equation (11) is

$$\mathcal{G}^{(1)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) \approx \frac{\nu_j\, \sigma_{jm}\, g_{(j,m)}}{x(\nu_m - \nu_j)} \qquad (13)$$

with the condition that $\mathcal{G}^{(1)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m)$ is zero unless

$$\frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m}(r_j + x) \le r'_m \le \frac{\nu_i}{\nu_m} r_j + x \qquad (14)$$

The second order terms of equation (11) are

$$\mathcal{G}^{(2)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) \approx \sum_k \frac{\sigma_{jk}\, \sigma_{km}\, g(j, k, m)}{r'_{mu} - r'_{m\ell}} \qquad (15)$$

with the condition that $\mathcal{G}^{(2)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m)$ are nonzero for

$$r'_{m\ell} \le r'_m \le r'_{mu} \qquad (16)$$

where

$$r'_{mu} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m} r_j + x & (\nu_m > \nu_k > \nu_j) \\ \frac{\nu_j r_j + \nu_k x}{\nu_m} & (\nu_k > \nu_m > \nu_j) \\ \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m} r_j + x & (\nu_m > \nu_j > \nu_k) \end{array} \right\} \qquad (17)$$

and

$$r'_{m\ell} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m}(r_j + x) & (\nu_m > \nu_k > \nu_j) \\ \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m}(r_j + x) & (\nu_k > \nu_m > \nu_j) \\ \frac{\nu_j r_j + \nu_k x}{\nu_m} & (\nu_m > \nu_j > \nu_k) \end{array} \right\} \qquad (18)$$

The third order terms of equation (11) are

$$G^{(3)}_{jm}(x, r_j, r'_m) \approx \sum_{k,\ell} \frac{\sigma_{jk}\, \sigma_{k\ell}\, \sigma_{\ell m}\, g(j,k,\ell,m)}{r'_{mu} - r'_{m\ell}} \qquad (19)$$

and similarly for higher order terms. In the above the g's of n arguments are given by

$$g(j) = e^{-\sigma_j x} \qquad (20)$$

and

$$g(j_1, j_2, \cdots j_n, j_{n+1}) = \frac{g(j_1, j_2 \cdots j_{n-1}, j_n) - g(j_1, j_2 \cdots, j_{n-1}, j_{n+1})}{\sigma_{j_{n+1}} - \sigma_{j_n}} \qquad (21)$$

In terms of above, the solution to equation (4) may be written as

$$\psi_j(x, r_j) = e^{-\sigma_j x} f_j[R_j^{-1}(r_j + x)]$$

$$+ \sum_{m,i} \mathcal{G}_{jm}^{(i)}(x) \Big\{ F_m[R_m^{-1}(r'_{m\ell})]$$

$$- F_m[R_m^{-1}(r'_{mu})] \Big\} \qquad (22)$$

where

$$\mathcal{G}_{jm}^{(i)}(x) =$$

$$\sum_{j_1, j_2 \cdots j_{n-2}} \frac{\sigma_{jj}, \sigma_{j_1 j_2} \cdots \sigma_{j_{n-2} m}\, g(j, j_1 j_2 \cdots j_{n-2}, m)}{\Delta^{(i)}} \qquad (23)$$

for i=1, the denominator of equation (23) is

$$\Delta^{(1)} = x\,(\frac{\nu_m}{\nu_j} - 1) \qquad (24)$$

and for i>1, the denominator becomes

$$\Delta^{(i)} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} x\left(1 - \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m}\right) & (\nu_m > \nu_k > \nu_j) \\ x\left(\frac{\nu_k}{\nu_m} - \frac{\nu_j}{\nu_m}\right) & (\nu_k > \nu_m > \nu_j) \\ x\left(1 - \frac{\nu_k}{\nu_m}\right) & (\nu_m > \nu_j > \nu_k) \end{array} \right\} \qquad (25)$$

In equation (22), $F_m(E)$ is the integral flux at the boundary, and is defined as

$$F_m(E) = \int_E^\infty f_m(E')dE' \qquad (26)$$

Implementation of equation (22) can now be accomplished independent of the character of the boundary values $f_m(E')$ and will give accurate results for both space and laboratory applications.

ACCOMPLISHED TASKS

An algorithm based on the Green's function method described above is developed and tested during the present phase of this research project. The current version of this code is computationally inefficient for terms higher than two (e.g. equation(19)). In order to improve the speed of the current algorithm, the following tasks will be undertaken:

1. Asymptotic solution for higher order terms will be derived and implemented to improve the computational efficiency of the current algorithm, with the goal of reducing the computational time of the present code to levels comparable to the present version of HZETRN (ref. 10)
2. The resulting algorithm will be used as a means of evaluating the shielding properties for galactic cosmic rays with geometric cutoffs.

Furthermore two statistical (Monte Carlo) transport codes are used to explore the following tasks:

3. Using a low to medium energy Monte Carlo transport code named TIGER, one and three dimensional energy deposition for electrons and photons in various target materials with and without an Aluminum shielding are calculated. The results are used to evaluate the depth dose relations in geometries of interest to radiation shielding.
4. The capabilities of a high energy Monte Carlo transport code named EGS4 is explored. EGS4 is a transport code for electrons, positrons, and photons, and has the flexibility of user interfacing through MORTRAN3 language. With this capability decay of zero pions can be simulated.

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